

Appl. No. 09/394,968
Response to Office Action mailed December 31, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatic processing of electronic communication including the steps of:

- sending a communication from a sender in a first language;
- identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;
- determining if a translation of the communication to a second language is required by the recipient;

- applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation if a translation of the communication to a second language is required by a recipient;

- automatically determining if a quotation for human translation of the communication to the second language is required by the recipient;

- automatically applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for the human translation if the human translation of the communication to the second language is required by the recipient; and

- automatically forwarding the communication ~~and, if required,~~ the machine translation and, ~~if required,~~ the quotation to the recipient; ~~and~~

- wherein the communication and, ~~if required,~~ the machine translation and, ~~if required,~~ the quotation are forwarded substantially simultaneously to the recipient.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

- the recipient formulating a response to the communication;
- identifying the response as a native language response to the foreign language communication;

- ~~if required by the sender,~~ applying a machine translation program to the native language response to generate a foreign language response; and

- forwarding the foreign language response to the sender.

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3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 further including the step of ~~if a machine translation is not suitable~~, applying a human translation to the native language response to generate a foreign language response.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the sender directs communication to an email address of the recipient from a foreign language web page of the recipient and a mail server identifies that the communication has come from the foreign language web page and is therefore likely to be in a foreign language.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the translation program is resident on a translation server.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the translation program is resident on a special purpose server.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said communication, said machine translation and said quotation are sent to the recipient by email.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said communication, said machine translation and said quotation are stored at a web site for access by the recipient.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further including the step of providing security protocols to control access to said communication, said machine translation and said quotation when stored on said web site.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of determining a quality of translation required, translating the communication to meet the required translation quality, and collecting fees according to the quality of translation provided.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the communication as a foreign language communication includes the step of identifying an email address of the recipient as being a foreign language email address.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the communication as a foreign language communication includes the step of parsing the communication to identify foreign language words and phrases.
13. (Currently amended) A system for automatic processing of a foreign language communication, the system comprising:
 - first means for sending a communication over a communications network;
 - second means for receiving said communication and identifying said communication as a foreign language communication;

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third computer-implemented means for generating a quotation for human translation of said foreign language communication to a native language;

fourth means for generating a machine translation of the foreign language communication to the native language;

fifth means for forwarding said communication, said machine translation and said quotation to an intended recipient; and

sixth means for said intended recipient to receive said communication, said machine translation and said quotation; and

wherein the fifth means forwards the communication, the machine translation and the quotation substantially simultaneously.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the first and sixth means are personal computers.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said second and fifth means is a network server computer configured as a mail server.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said third means is a computer configured as a quotation server.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said second, third, fourth and fifth means is a single network server computer.

19. (Currently amended) A computer in a networked computer environment, said computer programmed to perform the steps of:

receiving a communication from a sender in a first language;

identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;

determining if a translation of the communication to a native language is required by the recipient;

applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation ~~if a translation of the communication to a native language is required by a recipient;~~

automatically determining if a quotation for human translation of the communication to the native language is required by the recipient;

automatically applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for the human translation ~~if the human translation of the~~

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~~communication to the native language is required by the recipient; and~~

automatically forwarding the communication and, if required, the machine translation and, ~~if required,~~ the quotation to the recipient; and

wherein the communication, the machine translation, and the quotation are forwarded substantially simultaneously to the recipient.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

the recipient formulating a response to the communication;

identifying the response as a native language response to the foreign language communication;

determining if a machine translation of the native language response to generate a foreign language response is required by the sender;

applying a machine translation program to the native language response to generate a foreign language response ~~if required by the sender;~~

automatically determining if a quotation for human translation of the native language response to generate a foreign language response is required by the sender;

~~if a human translation of the native language response to generate a foreign language response is required by the sender,~~ automatically applying a quotation program to the native language response to generate a quotation for the human translation; and

automatically forwarding the foreign language response and, if required, the quotation[[,]] to the sender.

21. (Currently amended) A method for automatic processing of electronic communication including the steps of:

sending a communication from a sender in a first language;

identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;

in response to one or more previously provided instructions by a recipient, automatically applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation of the communication to a second language;

in response to one or more previously provided instructions by a recipient, automatically applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for a human translation of the communication to the second language; and

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automatically forwarding the communication and, ~~if instructed,~~ the machine translation and, ~~if instructed,~~ the quotation to the recipient; and

wherein the communication and, ~~if instructed,~~ the machine translation and, ~~if instructed,~~ the quotation are forwarded substantially simultaneously to the recipient.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first and sixth means are the same personal computer.

23. (Currently amended) A method for automatic processing of electronic communication including the steps of:

sending a communication from a sender in a first language;

identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;

automatically applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation;

automatically applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for a human translation; and

automatically forwarding the communication, the machine translation, and the quotation to a recipient; and

wherein the communication, the machine translation, and the quotation are forwarded substantially simultaneously to the recipient.

24-28. (Cancelled).

29. (New) A computer in a networked computer environment, said computer programmed to perform the steps of:

receiving a communication from a sender in a first language;

automatically identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;

substantially simultaneously applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for human translation of the communication to a native language;

substantially simultaneously applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine language translation of the communication to the native language; and

forwarding the communication, the machine translation and the quotation substantially simultaneously to a recipient.

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30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
performing a human translation of certain keywords contained in the communication, wherein the keywords are predefined by the recipient; and
forwarding the human translation of the keywords to the recipient substantially simultaneously with the communication, the machine translation and the quotation.
31. (New) The computer of claim 19, programmed to perform the further steps of:
requesting and then receiving a human translation of certain keywords contained in the communication, wherein the keywords are predefined by the recipient; and
forwarding the human translation of the keywords to the recipient substantially simultaneously with the communication, the machine translation and the quotation.
32. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
performing a human translation of certain keywords contained in the communication, wherein the keywords are predefined by the recipient; and
forwarding the human translation of the keywords to the recipient substantially simultaneously with the communication, the machine translation and the quotation.
33. (New) The computer of claim 29, programmed to perform the further steps of:
requesting and then receiving a human translation of certain keywords contained in the communication, wherein the keywords are predefined by the recipient; and
forwarding the human translation of the keywords to the recipient substantially simultaneously with the communication, the machine translation and the quotation.
34. (New) The computer of claim 33, wherein the keywords receive priority processing with the quotation including highlighting of the key words.